

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicant submits herewith a replacement drawing sheet in which the drawings have been amended to show the entire Figure 2 and to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In accordance with the rules the drawing sheet is labeled in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet".

Serial No. 10/511,132
Art Unit: 3677
Page 6

REMARKS

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 8-10 as being indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 8-10 as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,332,464 (Castel) and further rejected claims 8 and 9 as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 1,911,384 (Olson).

Claims 8-10 have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness objection. Specifically, the term "cambered" was a typographical error and should have read "chamfered". Applicant apologizes for any inconvenience and assumes that the correction will obviate many, if not all, of the claim rejections.

The objection regarding the drawings seems to be a result of an error by the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) when they published the international application and did not correctly reproduce a part of Figure 2. Thus, the published drawing is not identical to the drawing originally filed with the international application. The "Replacement Sheet" filed herewith is a copy of the original drawing as filed with the international application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on United States Patent No. 3,332,464 (Castel) and United States Patent No. 1,911,384 (Olson). Castel shows a washer having a central bore hole which on one surface is provided with rib profiles which are to be fixed within or to the

Serial No. 10/511,132
Art Unit: 3677
Page 7

surfaces of the screw or nut no later than the time that the fastening device is tightened such that a self-actuated unscrewing is prevented and is configured in such a resilient manner that it can be compressed counter to its resilience thereof by being chamfered, wherein the concave side is facing the member and the convex side is facing the screw head or the nut, respectively. The washer according to Castel tends to be fixed first at the screw head or the nut and then rotates with the screw or nut thereby destroying the surface of the workpiece on which the screw should be fixed. Thus, when using a washer according to Figure 4 or Figure 6 of Castel, the washer shown there having ribbed profiles only on the side of the screw's head or nut tends to rotate with the screw or nut when this is tightened. Thus, the surface of the workpiece can be scratched, and corrosion at these places will probably occur.

To solve this problem, Castel proposes a "solution" which clearly leads away from the present invention. To avoid this rotation of the washer on the workpiece, according to column 4, lines 35 to 40, Castel proposes to additionally provide axially turned points or spikes of any suitable configuration on the outer edge of the washer. This, of course, stops the washer from turning with the screw or nut. However, it even more destroys the surface of the workpiece. Thus, washers according to Figures 1, 2 and 3 of the Castel patent are not suitable to avoid damage to the workpiece surface. Such damage will also be caused by the washers according to Figures 4 and 6 of Castel (without any devices inhibiting the rotation of the washer on the workpiece), since simply by rotating the washer on the workpiece, the surface of the workpiece will be damaged.

Serial No. 10/511,132
Art Unit: 3677
Page 8

Thus, according to the present invention, any damage to the workpiece surface by spikes on the washer or by rotation of the washer when tightening the screw or the nut should be avoided. This problem is solved according to the present invention, since additional ribs are provided on the other side of the washer which faces the workpiece. Furthermore, due to the concave form of the washer, these ribs contact the surface of the workpiece in a broader diameter than the ribs on the other side of the washer contact the nut or the screw. Thus, the frictional force against the rotation of the screw or nut will be much stronger between the washer and the workpiece due to the higher diameter than the corresponding force between the washer and the screw or nut. Thus, the present invention can guarantee that the washer "stands" on the workpiece without damaging the surface of the workpiece while the screw or nut is tightened without having to use any "spikes" or similar devices which cause even more damage to the surface. Thus, the present invention is clearly contrary to the technical disclosure of Castel or Olson, which each shows sorts of axially turned points or spicks which have to point through the surface of the workpiece to avoid rotation of the washer, thereby destroying the surface of the workpiece.

According to the present invention, for the first time a resilient washer is shown having similar ribs on both sides thus avoiding any damage to the workpiece surface when tightening the corresponding fastener.

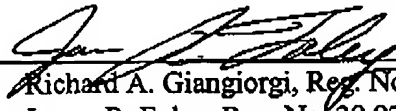
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be passed to issuance.

Serial No. 10/511,132
Art Unit: 3677
Page 9

Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 10/511,132
Art Unit: 3677
Page 10